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TRAVEL PRINTOUT

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U.S. Travel Data Center

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TRAVEL INCREASES IN 1985

Travel in 1985 increased 6 percent over 1984, resulting in an estimated 1.1 billion person-trips, according to preliminary results of the US Travel Data Center's 1985 National Travel Survey. (A person trip is measured each time anyone goes 100 miles or more away from home.)

The monthly survey, now completing its seventh year, shows that pleasure travel rose 10 percent and business/convention travel increased 19 percent. However, other travel for personal or family (medical, funeral, wedding) purposes declined dramatically. Vacation travel was up 6 percent.

Lower air fares and a strong economy led to a healthy increase in air travel over 1984 while growth in auto travel was almost imperceptible.

Travel costs away from home remained relatively stable in 1985, according to Dr. Douglas C. Frechtling, director of the US Travel Data Center.

The Travel Price Index rose 4.5 percent. Travel price advance in 1985 was less than one-half the trend rate of growth over the previous decade although somewhat more than the increase in the Consumer Price Index.

Gasoline prices declined while hotel/motel rates increased 6 percent to lead all major items.

Dr. Frechtling predicts the U.S. economy will offer a favorable environment for continued growth in 1986 travel demand.

He said the rise in disposable personal income will provide increasing means for Americans to enjoy pleasure trips away from home.

The relatively low inflation rates for most consumer goods and services and those specifically sought by travelers will ensure that the travel industry enjoys another increase in real output in 1986.

Revised estimates will be released in June in the 1985 National Travel Survey Full Year Report, which will be sent to Data Center members. The report is available to others for $110 prepaid from the US Travel Data Center, 1899 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036.##

HOTEL OCCUPANCY FALLS WHILE ROOM RATES RISE

Hotel occupancy in 1985 dipped to 64.5 percent, a 2.1 percent decline from 1984, while average room rate increased 4.8 percent to $58.92, according to a recent Laventhol and Horwath monthly national lodging industry report.

L&H National Partner for Leisure Time Industries Saul F. Leonard attributed the decline in occupancy to an increase in new hotel rooms.

Leonard believes the trend of adding huge numbers of net rooms will end this year with an expected addition of 70,000.

"This will be a major factor in the continued flat performance of the lodging industry," Leonard said. "By the latter part of 1987, however, we expect to see a turnaround as the number of additional rooms are absorbed and demand increases."

Further L&H predictions appear in the 1986 Outlook for the industry, which may be obtained for free by writing to Laventhol & Horwath, Publications Department, 1845 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.##

TRAVEL PRICES RISE SLIGHTLY IN JANUARY

Falling gasoline prices held the rise in travel costs to 0.4 percent in January, according to the US Travel Data Center's Travel Price Index (TPI).

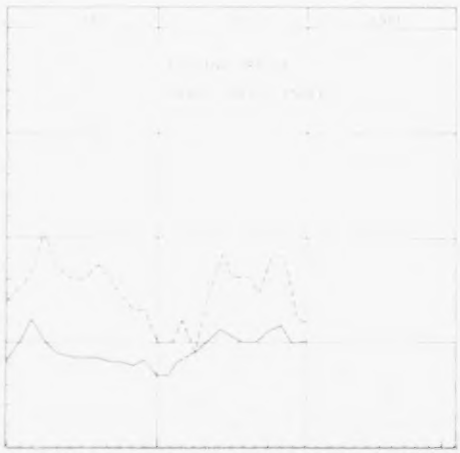
For comparison, the cost of consumer goods as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) gained 0.3 percent in December.

The TPI, which measures changes in the seasonally unadjusted cost of lodging, food, transportation and other goods and services purchased by Americans traveling away from home in this country, climbed to 386.0 (1967 = 100) in December.

Gasoline prices, at their lowest level since March 1985, fell 1.1 percent in January. The cost of incidentals declined 0.4 percent.

In contrast, intercity bus fares soared 3.2 percent, representing the largest monthly fare increase for this category in two years. Lodging prices gained 1.1 percent followed by a 1 percent jump in both intercity train fares and the cost of entertainment services.

In the past 12 months, the TPI has risen 5.1 percent, compared to a 3.9 percent gain in the CPI. Intercity bus fares, leading all TPI components, have grown 9.3 percent since last January. Lodging prices and airlines fares posted gains of more than 6 percent and intercity train fares rose 5.3 percent.##



DECLINES IN LODGING PRICE INCREASES MODERATE TRAVEL PRICE INDEX

Monthly and Annual Rates of Change in the Travel Price Index and Components
January 1986

TPI Component	Monthly Percent Change December 1985 to January 1986	Annual Percent Change January 1985 to January 1986
Transportation	- 0.1	5.5
Airline Fares	0.4	6.1
Intercity Bus Fares	3.2	9.3
Intercity Train Fares	1.0	5.3
Taxicab Fares	0.2	3.8
Gasoline	- 1.1	4.4
Lodging	1.1	6.0
Food Away From Home	0.3	3.9
Entertainment Services	1.0	4.8
Incidentals	- 0.4	2.8
TRAVEL PRICE INDEX	0.4	5.1
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	0.3	3.9

Source: US Travel Data Center and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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TRAVEL DECLINES IN NOVEMBER 1985

Travel during November declined nearly 1 percent from year-earlier levels, according to the US Travel Data Center's latest National Travel Survey results.

Following a slight increase in October, travel by Americans dropped from 91.8 million person-trips in November 1984 to 91.1 million a year later. (A person-trip is measured each time anyone goes 100 miles or more away from home.)

The monthly telephone survey of more than 1,500 American adults reported that vacation travel decreased 1 percent and weekend travel rose 7 percent.

A significant increase in business/convention travel offset an 8 percent decline in travel for pleasure (visiting friends and relatives, outdoor recreation, sightseeing and entertainment).

Average trip duration dropped to 4.8 nights from 5.3 nights one year earlier. Round-trip distance rose slightly to 890 miles from 880 miles in 1984.

Travel by personal motor vehicle increased 1 percent from November 1984, while air travel fell 2 percent. Longer distances, however, produced a small increase in domestic air person-miles.

The South Atlantic/East South Central region was the most popular with American travelers, accounting for 32 million person-trips during November 1985. The largest increase in travelers came from the New England/Mid-Atlantic region.

Results from the National Travel Survey are projectable to the total U.S. adult population.##

DATA CENTER PUBLISHES TRAVELTAB

Answers to the most frequently asked questions about the travel industry appear in TravelTab 1986, to be released by the Data Center before National Tourism Week. The pocket guide includes first estimates of 1985 travel.

The six-panel brochure is available in bulk quantities for 25 cents each plus $50.00. Orders for the first printing must be received by April 15.

For more information or to place an order, contact Ida Simmons at the US Travel Data Center, 202/293-1040.##

Visitor Volume at National Parks

Region	DEC 1985 visits*	Change from DEC 1984 (percent)	Percent change 1985/1984 Year-to-Date
NEW ENGLAND	256,124	7.6	-1.3
MIDDLE ATLANTIC	328,977	5.7	4.9
SOUTH EAST	5,490,284	-7.5	10.1
EAST NORTH CENTRAL	150,193	32.0	5.0
WEST NORTH CENTRAL	151,417	10.1	6.1
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL	354,391	4.3	0.2
MOUNTAIN	1,032,914	9.9	4.8
PACIFIC	2,248,357	6.9	1.3
TOTAL	10,012,657	-1.0	6.1

* adjusted for differences in reporting units

States comprising the Census regions:

NEW ENGLAND: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont. MIDDLE ATLANTIC: New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania. SOUTH EAST: Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia. EAST NORTH CENTRAL: Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin. WEST NORTH CENTRAL: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota. WEST SOUTH CENTRAL: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas. MOUNTAIN: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming. PACIFIC: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington.

CURRENT TRAVEL INDICATORS

	Current Month	Current Value	Percent Change From Previous Month	Percent Change From Year-ago Month	Percent Change Year-to-date 1985/84
Establishment receipts or retail sales					
Hotels, motels and other lodging places(1)	Dec	$ 3,255 million	- 1.7	5.9	N/A
Eating and drinking places(2)	Dec	$10,893 million	- 1.5	2.6	- 5.2
Gasoline service stations(2)	Dec	$ 8,693 million	2.0	4.7	1.7
Commercial lodging demand					
Hotel/motel occupancy rate(3)	Dec	63.4 percent	- 2.2	1.3	- 2.1
Real demand for commercial lodging(4)		$ N/A million	N/A	N/A	N/A
Airline passenger traffic(5)					
Domestic revenue passenger miles	Dec	19.4 billion	17.6	13.7	9.3
International revenue passenger miles	Dec	4.6 billion	9.2	7.6	15.0
Highway traffic volume(6)					
Rural arterial vehicle miles	Dec	35.0 billion	1.7	3.9	3.3
Rail passenger traffic(7)					
Amtrak passenger miles	Dec	472.5 million	26.8	19.0	9.0
Travel Price Index(8)	Dec	384.6	1.0	4.9	4.8
U.S. resident travel(9)					
Total person trips	Nov	91.1 million	2.6	- 0.8	8.4
Vacation person trips	Nov	60.3 million	12.9	1.1	5.3
Total person nights	Nov	437.3 million	5.3	-10.3	13.8
Vacation person nights	Nov	337.7 million	9.0	- 4.6	7.5
Public use of national parks(10)					
Visits	Dec	10,799,752	25.3	0.5	8.6
Overnight stays	Dec	336,471	-42.6	2.9	-11.3
Foreign arrivals in U.S.(11)					
From overseas	Oct	435,964	- 9.2	- 4.6	- 0.5
From Canada	Dec	580,667	- 6.0	- 1.4	- 0.5
U.S. citizen departures(11)					
To overseas	Oct	1,039,208	15.6	0.4	6.7
To Canada	Dec	466,750	7.2	3.3	4.5
Domestic demand for motor gasoline(12)					
Barrels per day	Dec	14,792 thousand	0.6	3.0	3.4

N/A = not available

(1)Source: Smith Travel Research, seasonally unadjusted. (2)Preliminary, adjusted for seasonal variation and trading day differences. Source: Bureau of the Census. (3)Source: Laventhol and Horwath, seasonally adjusted. (4)Source: Laventhol and Horwath, unadjusted expenditures for commercial lodging adjusted for inflation since 1972. (5)Preliminary, U.S. scheduled service air carriers. Source: U.S. Department of Transportation. (6)Source: Federal Highway Administration. (7)Source: National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak). (8)Source: U.S. Travel Data Center and Bureau of Labor Statistics. (9)Source: U.S. Travel Data Center. (10)Preliminary, unadjusted for differences in reporting units. Source: National Park Service. (11)Source: Statistics Canada and Nettleton Travel Research Center. (12)Preliminary. Source: U.S. Department of Energy.

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